



The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 410.

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1883.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.**For Sale.****CHEAP STATIONERY.**

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
ARE NOW SHOWING A PARCEL OF
CHEAP STATIONERY.

MACHINE AND HAND MADE
FOOLSCAP, LETTER & NOTE PAPERS.

CHEAP PRIVATE

AND

COMMERCIAL ENVELOPES.

BLOTTING PAPER,
SCRIBBLING AND MEMORANDUM
BLOCKS.

OFFICE SUNDRIES OF ALL KINDS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1883. [340]

Insurances.**NOTICE.**

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000)

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN

Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [106]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED).

(CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL \$833,333-33-

RESERVE FUND.....\$70,858.27.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq. LEE YAT LAU, Esq.
LO YEOK MOON, Esq. CHU CHIK NUNG, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at
CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1882. [501]

NATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned as AGENTS for the above
are prepared to accept RISKS on MER-
CHANDISE by STEAMERS and SAILING VESSELS
from Hongkong, China, and Japan to all parts
of the world.

For further information apply to
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1883. [393]

YANG TSZE INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00
PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 130,000.00
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 200,553.95

TOTAL CAPITAL and
ACCUMULATIONS, 8th).....Tls. 940,553.95
May, 1882. [395]

DIRECTORS.

H. DR C. FORSTER, Esq., Chairman.
J. H. PINCKVOSS, Esq. Wm. MEYERINK, Esq.
A. J. M. INVERARITY, Esq. G. H. WHEELER, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI

Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH

Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co.,
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent,

68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all
parts of the world.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent for Interest
on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the
UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually dis-
tributed among all Contributors of Business (whether
Shareholders or not) in proportion to the
premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1883. [83]

THE Undersigned have been appointed
AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD
OF UNDERWRITERS.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [457]

GUEDES & CO.

PRINTERS, STATIONERS AND
BOOKBINDERS.
D'AQUILAR STREET.

EVERY KIND OF WORK EXECUTED WITH
ACCURACY, NEATNESS, AND DESPATCH
IN VERY MODERATE TERMS.

SELECTED MATERIALS FOR
MARKET REPORTS.
Book-binding and Ruling in every style executed
at low rates. Workmanship Guaranteed.

Hongkong, 2nd August, 1882. [14]

Auctions.**PUBLIC AUCTION****OF****HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE****&c., &c., &c.****THE Undersigned has received instructions****to Sell by Public Auction, on****FRIDAY,****the 25th May, 1883, at TWO O'CLOCK P.M., at the****Residence of Messrs. DEETJEN & Co.,****No. 7, Garden Road,—****THE ENTIRE****HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,****Comprising:—****DRAWING-ROOM SUITE, CARPETS,****TABLES, MIRRORS, PICTURES, CUR-****TAINS, &c., &c.****DINING-ROOM FURNITURE, GLASS,****CROCKERY-WARE, &c., &c.****BED-ROOM FURNITURE, WARD-****ROBES, WASHING STANDS, DRESSING****TABLES, BEDSTEADS, &c.****SHANGHAI BATHS, &c., &c.****Catalogues will be issued previous to the Sale,****and the above will be on view on THURSDAY****AFTERNOON.****TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.****G. R. LAMMERT,****Auctioneer.****Hongkong, 19th May, 1883. [397]****Notices of Firms.****NOTICE.**

M. JEHN ROSSELET is AUTHORISED
to Sign our Name per procurator from
this date.

J. ULLMANN & Co.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1883. [389]

NOTICE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY,
LIMITED.

M. H. R. H. MARTIN, has been ap-
pointed MANAGER of the above Com-
pany and takes charge from this date.

(Signed) P. RYRIE,

Chairman Local Committee.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1883. [384]

To be Let.**TO LET.**

HOUSE No. 2, with entrance in ARBUITHNOT
ROAD and Windows on WYNDHAM
STREET.

Apply to V. GUTIERREZ.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1883. [386]

TO LET.

NO. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET,
No. 6, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
lately occupied by PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP
COMPANY.

No. 7, GARDEN ROAD (at present occupied
by Messrs. DEETJEN & Co., and will be vacant on
the 30th June next).

No. 25A, PRAYA CENTRAL.

Apply to DAVID SASOON, SONS & Co.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1883. [7]

TO LET.

A TWO STOREY HOUSE (6 ROOMS)
with GARDEN, in Mosque Junction. The
above has Gas and Water laid on; and im-
mediate possession can be had.

For Particulars apply to

D. NOWROOZEE,

Hongkong Hotel.

Hongkong, 6th April, 1883. [18]

TO LET.

FOR ONE YEAR from June next, the New
BUNGALOW at the PEAK on R. B. Lot
20, now roofed in and nearly completed, the
property of Mr. J. ENSTON SQUIER.

For all information, apply to

BIRD & PALMER.

Queen's Road.

Hongkong, 19th April, 1883. [397]

TO LET.

A SMALL DWELLING HOUSE at No. 3,
Upper Ladder Street Terrace. Four Com-
modious and well Ventilated Rooms, with a large
Bath Room and Kitchen attached. Water laid
on. The House commands a full view of the
harbour. Rent \$15 per Month.

Apply on

THE PREMISES.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1883. [385]

TO LET.

EX STEAMSHIP "LAERTE."

For Particulars, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.

Agents.

Hongkong, 19th May, 1883. [395]

FOR SALE.

A CONSIGNMENT OF HOCKING'S
PATENT FRESH WATER
CONDENSERS.

THE BEST & CHEAPEST EVER MADE.

Capable of Condensing Three Thousand
Gallons per day.

Apply to

G. FENWICK & Co.,

Victoria Foundry.

Hongkong, 25th April, 1883. [328]

FOR SALE.

G. H. MUMM & Co.'s CHAMPAGNE.

QUARTER.....\$22 per Case.

FIFTH.....\$23 per Case.

Apply to

MELCHIERS & Co.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1883. [382]

FOR SALE.**Intimations.****SAYLE & CO.'S SHOWROOMS.****SAYLE & CO.****NEW SPRING GOODS.**

EX S.S. "GLENCOE."

WHITE DRESS MATERIALS.

CREAM DRESS MATERIALS.

NUNS' VEILINGS in every Color.

SUMMER BEIGES in every Color.

GALATEAS for Boys' Washing Suits.

WHITE INDIA MUSLINS.

MULL CORD MUSLINS.

WHITE VICTORIA LAUNWS.

BLACK and COLORED SUNSHADES.

LADIES' PATENT LEATHER SLIPPERS.

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO.

FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
DRUGGISTS' SUNDRY MEN,
PERFUMERS,
IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS
OF
MANILA CIGARS,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
AND
MANUFACTURERS

AERATED WATER.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

THE SHANGHAI PHARMACY,
24, NANKIN ROAD, SHANGHAI.

NOTICIA INGLESA,

14, ESCOLTA, MANILA.

THE CANTON DISPENSARY, CANTON.
THE DISPENSARY, FOOCHOW. [3]

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1883.

We have no desire so soon after the arrival of our new Governor to subject to adverse criticism any of his public acts, and we therefore refrain (for the present at least) from stating our views relating to His Excellency's exceedingly ill advised and most arbitrary action with regard to the poor Chinese hawkers of this Colony. Sir George Bowen is a practical man of the world, so he will not take amiss the honest and straightforward advice we offer him. If His Excellency wishes to govern this Colony successfully he must see for himself as to its peculiar constitution and requirements. To follow the advice—as His Excellency unfortunately appears to have done in several instances—of such eminent gentlemen as Mr. J. M. Price, and we are afraid we must add, Captain W. M. Deane, simply means placing the foreign and Chinese elements in a direct antagonism which will create difficulties of a most serious nature. It is stated that a recent act of Governor Bowen's has placed over three thousand poor Chinese hawkers in this Colony out of employment. These men, by this official attempt to make the Chinese city of Hongkong a sort of second rat Bond Street, are placed between two alternatives—starvation or plunder. We speak plainly so that His Excellency cannot hereafter say that he acted in ignorance of the probable consequences. On Sunday last, but for the influence of the leading Chinese, the half of this city would have been in ruins before the soldiers or police could have prevented it. The riot would have been quelled, but at a cost of hundreds of lives. A placard has been posted in public places throughout this colony announcing that a general rising against the arbitrary measures of the new Governor will take place tomorrow. This may or may not take place; but if it does, blood will undoubtedly be shed, and the responsibility is Sir George Bowen's. We refrain from further criticising either His Excellency's crusade against a respectable although humble class, or the disatisfaction his action has created; but respectfully solicit consideration for the following statement of the questions at issue, which we have received from one of the most respected and influential Chinese residents in this colony:

The recent action of the police department in hounding down the unlicensed hawkers so soon after the arrival of Sir George Bowen, has caused a general idea to prevail amongst a numerous section of the Chinese community that our present governor is averse to any but well-to-do Chinese living here, and that it was by his orders that the machinery of the law was set in motion to crush that harmless traffic by which a large number of men were enabled to make an honest livelihood by hawking their produce from place to place and supplying the women employed in the various industries of the colony with refreshments suitable to the purchaser and vendor. A deal has been written respecting these so-called obstructionists but I have never been able to see that the hawkers do much in the obstruction line with their moveable shops, baskets, and other paraphernalia on which they expose their wares; nor yet am I aware that the native needlewoman with her three-legged stool is much of an obstruction or nuisance, as she rarely intrudes herself on the delicate presence of the white races resident here, who alone are making any complaint about these so-called nuisances. If only on the live and let live principle, these poor creatures have some right to be allowed to follow their honest calling, but there is a much more vital point that is that, from which the question of itinerant hawking must be examined. It would be an utter impossibility to rigidly apply English customs to the working classes here, for reasons which must be perfectly patent to all reasoning men who have given the matter a thought. Throughout Great Britain the following rules may be said to hold good:—A workman goes to work at 6 a.m.; at nine o'clock he leaves work and goes home to breakfast; all work, as a rule, being stopped between nine and ten o'clock and again during the dinner hour from two till three, and generally speaking, being concluded for the night at 5 p.m. The British workman, whether married or single, does not take his food like a Chinese workman, who, it is patent to all who live here, feeds wholesale, the whole gang employed on a job mending together although they may live (asleep) in different districts of the town. The regular meals of a working Chinaman are augmented by slight "refreshers" at various hours

of the day, which are regulated by the work he does. The numerous members of the coolie class, without whom we could not carry on our commerce here, may be employed at six or more different places of work within the space of one week. The coolie, as a rule, has no home beyond the sleeping house to go to, and none to prepare his food except the itinerant hawkers who are able to supply at a low rate the wherewithal to keep the flesh and bone of the poorly paid coolie together. Do away with the hawkers who abound all over the town, more especially where any extensive works are being carried on, and you take away from the coolies the only chance they have of keeping body and soul together, as their scanty wages do not allow of their losing time to leave off work and go to the chow-chow shop even if they could afford to go there to their meals, which it is well known they cannot do. Take away the hawker and the coolie is unable to live by working; he will leave off earning his living honestly and will try to live in some other fashion. The coolie being a scarce commodity in the market, other trades are affected and the whole system of trade is more or less paralyzed from that cause. While we are dependent on cheap manual labor in this colony, the coolie class must be in request, and to enable the coolie to live, the itinerant hawker is a necessity, and the sooner we come to that conclusion the sooner will things quieten down amongst the poorer classes of this community who if dealt with reasonably, are very law abiding and fairly honest until driven by hard measures to dishonest practices. On Sunday last, about 8 a.m., more than one thousand Chinese, principally of the hawker class, called at the Tung-wa-Hospital and demanded to know why the management of that institution, whom they look upon as their chiefs, allowed them to be deprived of their means of making an honest living, imputing blame to the Governor or his advisers for trying to sweep away a system that has worked fairly well from the time the British first established themselves on this island. The working men forming this numerous delegation were quite orderly in their behaviour at first, and simply stated their wants. They wished to be shown how they could obtain food for themselves and families if they were not allowed to work, and finally spoke of resorting to desperate measures if oppressed by stringent regulations. After bewailing the want of interest taken in their welfare by their chiefs and protectors, the Tung-wa Committee, they gave that body of workmen to understand that unless their grievances were laid before His Excellency the Governor, the Tung-wa Hospital would soon find itself flying about in small pieces, and that other buildings would share the same fate. On the President of the Tung-wa Committee promising that the matter would be seen to as quickly as possible the crowd very quietly dispersed. I do not profess to be able to adequately suggest a complete remedy for what is undoubtedly a hard blow to these honest and hard working traders, but have every confidence in the ability of Dr. Stewart and Mr. James Russell to deal with the matter and give Sir George Bowen the fullest information on the subject, and I feel that I have done my duty in bringing the matter before the notice of His Excellency so that he can examine with his own eyes whether these sweeping changes amongst the methods of living of the poorer classes of Chinese are absolutely necessary or even wise when it is taken into consideration that the complaints do not come from Chinese sources and that the alleged obstructions mainly exist in China town where Europeans rarely go.

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The Band of "The Buffs" will perform the following programme in the Botanical Gardens, this evening (weather permitting), commencing at 9 o'clock:—

Grand March....."Jolanta"....."Sullivan";
Overture....."Bauer on Diction"....."Berg";
Valse....."Dixie"....."Vest";
Pavane....."Dionysos"....."Vest";
Song....."The Last Chord"....."Sullivan";
Selection....."La Mascotte"....."Audra";
Gale....."Die Wildere"....."Faust".

GOOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

H. QUINE, Band Master.

Says the *Shanghai Mercury*:—The Naval College at Whampoa is now in full working order, and the future naval heroes are being manufactured hand over fist. Communication between headquarters in Canton and the Whampoa College is being kept up by means of a native "Flower Boat," which has been saddled with a small second-hand steam engine. That is what, by stretch of imagination, Cantonese courtesy, and Whampoa euphemism is called "a steam launch" in the City of Rams.

The Mastodons performed at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last evening to a fairly large audience, composed mostly of the naval and military, although there was a fair sprinkling of civilians in the dress circle. A capital performance was provided, the role of the artistes being warmly applauded. The burlesque opera "H.M.S. Pin-a-(in black)" is advertised for Thursday evening, and we cannot but think that this is a mistake, on the part of the management, as it is being kept up by means of a native "Flower Boat," which has been saddled with a small second-hand steam engine. That is what, by stretch of imagination, Cantonese courtesy, and Whampoa euphemism is called "a steam launch" in the City of Rams.

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FRANCE AND CHINA.

If recent intelligence from Peking is worthy of credence, war between China and France over the Tonquin question seems inevitable. It is currently reported in the north, and apparently by good authority, that Li Hung Chang, the redoubtable Viceroy of Chihli and Grand Secretary of the Empire, has received positive instructions from the Tsing-Hi Yamen to proceed without delay to the southern provinces, to superintend warlike operations for the defence of China's tributary. It is said that the note of warlike preparation has been sounded throughout Chihli, and that extensive drafts of trained soldiers with all the paraphernalia of modern warfare will shortly be poured into Kwangtung and Kwang-si. It is even rumoured that the great Viceroy himself will shortly arrive in Canton to personally direct the movements of his "braves." Although all these may be idle rumours there can be no denying the fact that the political horizon is not reassuring.

As any day might bring us news that the dogs of war had been slipped in Tonquin by the Chinese Government, all information bearing on the probable results of a contest between France and the immense resources of the Middle Kingdom must at the present time be especially interesting. We therefore reproduce from our Shanghai contemporary, the *Mercury*, two articles on the subject, which we are sure will be read with interest. We do not, of course, hold ourselves responsible in any way for the views held by our contemporary; although it must be admitted that in many respects we thoroughly agree with the conclusions arrived at.

The ultimatum addressed by President Grévy to the King of Tongking according to the last news from France, will soon be answered by Peking, as the Chinese statesmen have to decide, and decide quickly, upon action against France, or acquiescence in the virtual annexation of Annam and Tongking to France. The thought of having France as a neighbour will be very disagreeable to the Chinese officials and people; especially as the misgoverned people of Yunnan and Kwangsi are sure before long to give just cause of offence to the French Government of Tongking by some raiding expeditions of the "black band" and other brigands; the consequence of which will be that France will have ready to her hands valid pretexts for interference upon Chinese soil. And though Kwangsi would be of but little value, the mineral wealth of Yunnan is very great, and if worked by French miners would yield great revenues to the French occupiers. If Peking is unwilling that Tongking and Annam should become French territory, action will have to be taken at once. It will be well, therefore, to consider the forces that may be arrayed against each other.

France has or will have within a month, about 12,000 French troops in Cochin-China, Annam, and Tongking, and in addition there are 10,000 to 11,000 Annamites, well armed and effective as indigenous troops, who have been trained by and are officered by Frenchmen. In case of dispute, France, which has a large fleet of steam transports, can land in Saigon in 34 days after departure from Toulon or Marseilles, 20,000 or more Algerian or Turco-soldiers, whose physical qualities, dress, and mode of life, fit them admirably for the operations of war in a hot climate.

The French fleet is to be reinforced, but no details have been given yet of the vessels that are to come to increase Admiral Meyer's fleet. At present the French fleet in the Chinese waters is but small. The flag ship is the *Victorieu*, an iron-clad of smaller size and lesser battery than H.M.S. *Audacieuse*. The next vessel in point of size is the fast corvette *Villars*. The rest of the fleet is composed of sloops and avisos, with a few gun-boats. The Government of Saigon has, however, a small force of light-draught gun-boats at river work.

Saigon is well found in stores, and it should be recollect that four or five years ago large quantities of ammunition and war stores were sent from France to Saigon, to be in readiness for the expedition which was to have been made in 1880 under command of Admiral Dupré. Saigon, therefore, will be a good and sufficient base of operations for a war in Tongking or upon Chinese soil. It must be remembered that if France is vexed by the action of China, more likely than not the war would be transferred from Tongking to Canton, as there would be obvious advantages in attacking China upon Chinese soil, at some one important strategic point such as Canton. An attack could be readily made by a great naval and military power, such as France is.

On the Chinese side there are the Foochow gun-boats, a well built, and—as far as hulls, engines, and guns go—efficient flotilla. There are, also, the two cruising rams, each of which carries two 25-ton guns of 10 inches calibre, and the ten or twelve alphabetical gun-boats. The Shanghai fleet counts as nothing. Now in good hands, and under skilful direction, the Foochow gun-boats, the rams, and the Armstrong gun-boats would be a very powerful force that could not be disregarded, but in the hands of Chinese officers, and under the direction of a Chinese Admiral, the force will prove to be a sham.

As regards the land force of China, there are in the two Kiangs, Yunnan and Kwai-chau, no doubt, a considerable number of "braves," but although we have no certain knowledge of Yunnan and Kwai-chau troops we may expect to find that they are ill-armed, ill-equipped, and worthless mobs of men, and the Canton troops, for the most part, are still armed with spears and matchlocks. Li's dependence, therefore, in the event of hostilities, would be safely placed upon the men of his own Chihli army, who would, no doubt, be sent to Kwangsi in considerable numbers. Li's men are well drilled, fully equipped, and are, for the most part, armed with the Mauser breech-loaders. Li has also from 16 to 20 batteries, or a considerable number of coasting guns.

Probably Li could array 30,000 men for war in Kwangtung, but that he can land troops in Tongking, or take active operations in Tongking, we doubt. The Chinese are running great risks, and if the French come into collision with Li, China will lose territory, and have to pay large sums for indemnity. To war against France will be the height of folly. To-morrow we will point out how useless the Chinese army is for any operations of war except defense of position.

Yesterday we pointed out the relative forces of China and France, that may yet, if the Peking Government be insensate, be arrayed against each other.

The Chinese fleet, which comprises twelve gun-boats, two ram-cruisers of exceptional power and speed, and about a dozen small craft, each carrying one cannon of enormous size and range, would, in skilful hands, almost suffice for the defence of the coast of China. But for a war in the gulf of Tongking, away from machine-shops repairing docks, and coal depots, the alphabetical gun-boats will be

not only useless but a positive encumbrance to a cruising fleet. The very great mechanical merit of the vessels built for China by Armstrong & Co., will, in time of war, constitute a serious disadvantage. There are no highly trained Chinese mechanics or skilled Chinese gunners, and the vessels, filled as they are with delicate and elaborate machinery, will be quickly disabled in active service through the ignorance and incompetence of the Chinese crews.

With regard to the Chinese land forces, the only soldiers of the Empire are those of Li in Chihli. Li had in 1876 about 60,000 men, but owing to the revolt of 1877 and subsequent general retrenchment, the force does not now exceed 45,000 men, and may, even, be less. The infantry regiments are well clothed, drill well, and are armed with one good rifle, the German Mauser breech-loader. The cavalry is deficient in number, and of little use, save for scouting. The artillery is not bad, and against Chinese rebels on Chinese soil would be capable of acting with effect. But against French or Russian artillery the Chinese force would be rather helpless. Li has from 16 to 20 batteries of Krupp's 9 and 16-pounder field guns, but the guns have been bought during a number of years, and are of three patterns, each of which is for different charges, and the guns vary accordingly in trajectory force and quality. The ammunition and projectiles made for No. 1 are "useless" for Nos. 2 and 3; the 9, too, varies somewhat. The Chinese artillery, therefore, would not be a trustworthy or useful force, and if the magazines have to be shifted from Chihli to Canton, or Kwang-si, it is certain that intolerable confusion will arise.

It would be lost time if we discussed the qualities of the provincial armies of China; as they are mere mobs of men, some few with good arms, and the majority armed just the same as in 1842. The new material of the troops is, however, good, and given time, liberal, outlay, skilled officers, and scientific direction, China would become a formidable military power. But at present the only real soldiers in the Empire are those of Li, and his officers are unskilled and of indifferent quality, utterly unfit to carry on operations of war, except such as are purely defensive, against a trained enemy.

The real defence of China is her remoteness. To attack her involves vast expenses for transport of men, horses, and stores, and the climate with extremes of heat and cold, the badness of the ways of communication, and the difficulty of feeding European troops, are the real bulwarks of the Empire against a foreign foe.

We know how costly the Anglo-Franco expedition of 1860 became, and what the enormous outlays of the Russian Empire were in 1879 and 1880, although Russia would have had Japan in a convenient and adequate base of operations. But the very quality of inaccessibility, valuable as it is, also re-acts against China when she is called on to defend the North West, Tongking, or Korea. If Li should, as is reported, take to Canton with him 20,000 or 30,000 men of the forces of Chihli, his difficulties will be immense. First, transport by sea will be requisite, and the China Merchants' S. C. O. fleet is utterly inadequate to take even 10,000 men in six weeks time. Then there will be the transport of stores and munitions of war to provide for. In Canton there are no magazines full of Mauser cartridges or Krupp shell, and for a warlike expedition, such as the defence of Tongking, every soldier required 500 cartridges, that is—500 with his column and 200 in store, and every Krupp cannon should have 200 projectiles and powder charges. Besides the force must have reserves of rifles, and machine shops for effecting repairs. In Canton there are no reserves of rifles, and no machinery. Everything must be transported from Tientsin.

Li should go to Tongking by sea or by land is almost impossible. By sea, the French fleet will guard the entrance to Tongking, and a march from Canton to Kwangsi or Yunnan of any considerable force is out of the question.

If the Chinese wish to have an army their rulers must reverse their past policy. The first thing to be done should be the training of officers for all the services, the formation of camps, uniformity of drill, armament, &c., and the creation of strategic intercommunications. Just now some Chinese soldiers have good arms, but the officers, one and all, are without knowledge of their profession. Some provinces have French drill, others adopt a mixed German system; in Canton the Manchus are drilled in the English method. Chihli has the Mauser gun, Fohkien the Remington, and the Liang-Ling the Chassepot and Snider. There is no science, no uniformity; everything relating to the Chinese army is confused, contradictory, and unreliable.

Before China can have an army and navy both the names, there are primary conditions which must be fulfilled, and which cannot be evaded, such as:—Central direction, discipline, power of movement, combination and action, which can only be given by good roads, canals in repair, railways, telegraphs, stores, arsenals, uniform armaments, reasonable dress, accoutrements, &c., &c.; scientific, medical and transportation services; reserves of men, officers, material, and so on.

When China conforms to these simple and indispensable requirements she may rank as a military power. But in her present chaotic and helpless condition war against a first-rate naval and military nation like France—which can, and would, if provoked, put forth crushing power—is utter madness.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

May, 1883.

It is a stirring time here. There are the Races, and the Annam French affair. All kinds of reports are flying about, but one thing is sure, the Chinese mean it about Annam. The Viceroy of Yunnan and Kwai-chau have troops on the neutral ground of Annam, some say 10,000, really 30,000 perhaps. Li Hung-chang, with his Lieutenant, Li-tu Ming-chang, is to go direct to Canton. On Monday next as per his telegram, he will be in Shanghai. It will be seen whether he will obey the Emperor's commands, or make a plot for coming up here.

Mr. J. H. Frandrin arrived here the day before yesterday, ostensibly for the Races. He called on H.E. Chang yesterday, who returned his visit at 2 p.m., Mr. Frandrin came about Capt. Mignard's business affair; others say regard to Annam; the latter is perhaps true. If M. Bourcier is to remain here to get up some plan to arrange affairs amicably, and Mr. Klein-kuang, who is said to be one of the factors in the Annam and Korean affair, Mr. Frandrin, who acted as interpreter to Admiral Dupré, and Mr. Bourcier at the beginning, is the right man in the right place.

With Li returning, it may be settled, yet as it is said China is prepared to cede nine-tenths of Tongking to France and grant permission to work the copper mines, &c., &c. The latter seems to be a curious permission to grant; if China cedes nine-tenths of Tongking, it then must include the place where the mines are.

It will be seen by and bye what the Bourcier convention really was; if it contained all this, why France must be wrong in rejecting so favourable a convention.

Telegrams are received here, saying that France is sending 50 men-of-war to the China Seas. This telegram caused a great stir amongst the Chinese—*Mercure*.

THE SALVING OF THE SCHOONER "MATARAM."

Captain Schulz, of the steamer *Zamiat*, has favoured us (*Shanghai Mercury*) with the following interesting report:

Left Hongkong on the 11th instant, at 5 p.m., bound for Shanghai; experienced thick foggy weather with heavy showers of rain. Stood well off the coast. After midnight the weather cleared. At 4 a.m. next day observed a suspicious looking dark object on the starboard bow, right in the benten slowly round it; reduced speed and steamed twice slowly round it, keeping the steam whistle going. It proved to be a dismasted foreign vessel, and our signals not being answered, suspected that pirates might be concealed on board.

Launched a boat and sent an armed boarding party in charge of second officer and third engineer to examine her. Found her abandoned. Took possession and tailed on to her, shaping course for Swatow, our nearest port. At daylight put fresh water and two days' provisions on board; hoisted the British ensign and the Company's House Flag on her; Cuphi Point bore N. by W., distant about 17 miles; observed a steamer passing to the eastward. Stationed the second officer, the boatswain and four native sailors on board; put the second officer in charge: he commanded her exceedingly well.

She was minus her bowsprit. The broken mainmast hung in a slanting peculiar nondescript and unseamanlike direction over to port. The foremast had taken a final departure, in company of jibboom and main-topmast. The ceremony of going over the inventory was not required, previous visitors having taken stock already; they had not left their cards or photographs; but they had put their "mark" down most unmistakably. Everything on board being more or less hacked, broken and torn to pieces; the copper had been stripped off her sides.

Servicing through the Sugar Loaf Pass, the schooner recurred the whole width of the Pass for herself, to manoeuvre through, owing to her want of rudder; she shivered from side to the other like a porpoise.

Arrived at Swatow at 7:30 p.m., on the 14th inst.; and moored both vessels securely for the night.

The steamer left Swatow next day at 3 p.m., for Shanghai; vessels at Swatow—Steamships *Athay*, *Chesoo*, *Chiyeen*, *Ferntower*, *Pectili*, *Rajah-nathun-har*, *Santow*, *Taiwan*, *Tientsin*; schooner *Mataram* and two other vessels.

Off Ockseu had dense fog; jogged along slowly; observed some floating wreckage of foreign origin like pieces of a deck house, mostly painted white. Saw a full rigged man of war a short distance off heading to the North-eastward. She was driving to port; had variable winds, and an uncertain assortment of all kinds of weather. At noon to-day (16th inst.), passed a Chinese frigate and five gunboats outside Woosung, under steam, going in for naval tactics; sometimes it looked like strategy; got past them without harm. Arrived at Shanghai at 3 p.m., on the 16th.

* * * N.B.—Note the address:

No. 66, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

SIXTH DOOR WEST FROM POTTINGER STREET.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1883.

To-day's Advertisements.

NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS will be received by the Undersigned at or before 4 O'CLOCK P.M. of THURSDAY, the 5th July next, for the SUPPLY of 2,600 Tons of TASAKIMA COAL, deliverable at the NAVAL COAL DEPOT, Kowloon, subject to Conditions in the Form of Tender which can be obtained on application to be NAVAL STOREKEEPER'S OFFICE.

The right to reject the lowest or any Tender is reserved.

WILLIAM HYNES,
H.M. NAVAL YARD,
Hongkong, 22nd May, 1883.

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UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A FIRST INTERIM BONUS of TWENTY per cent. upon Contributions for the year 1882 has this day been DECLARED.

WARRANTS may be had on Application at the Office of the Society on and after the 21st instant.

By Order of the Board,

DOUGLAS JONES,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1883.

[400]

NOTICE.

TO STOREKEEPERS USUAL DISCOUNT ALLOWED ON THE ABOVE PRICES.

S. MEYERS,

MANAGER.

[38]

Intimations.

"NOVELTY STORE,"
MARINE HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD.

KAISAR-I-HIND CIGARETTES.

THESE CIGARETTES, which are made of blends of pure TURKISH TOBACCO and RICE PAPER, are now offered at the following Reduced Prices:

BUYERS OF QUANTITIES SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

10,000 @ 53 Cents per 100 Cigarettes packed in Handsome Crystallized Boxes.

1,000 @ 60 " per 100 "

1,000 @ 65 " per 100 "

100 @ 70 " per 100 "

10,000 @ 65 Cents per 100 Cigarettes packed in Handsome Crystallized Boxes.

10,000 @ 70 " per 100 "

1,000 @ 75 " per 100 "

100 @ 80 " per 100 "

SUPERIOR QUALITY.

10,000 @ 65 Cents per 100 Cigarettes packed in Handsome Crystallized Boxes.

10,000 @ 70 " per 100 "

1,000 @ 75 " per 100 "

100 @ 80 " per 100 "

TO STOREKEEPERS USUAL DISCOUNT ALLOWED ON THE ABOVE PRICES.

S. MEYERS,

MANAGER.

[38]

Intimations.

F. BLACKHEAD & CO.

SHIPCHANDLERS, STORE-KEEPERS
AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS,
PRAYA CENTRAL.

HAVE RECEIVED EX-LATEST ARRIVALS.

AMERICAN CAST STEEL SHOVELS,
PICKS, AXES.

HATCHETS, ENGINEERS' & HOUSEHOLD HAMMERS.

PATENT BRIT-TRACES.

AUGER-BITS.

